



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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NOAA Fisheries Seeks Comments on Proposed Changes to Red Snapper Quotas in the Gulf of Mexico

NOAA Fisheries is seeking comments on changes to the red snapper quotas in the Gulf of Mexico. As recommended by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee, the red snapper acceptable biological catch would increase from 11.0 million pounds (mp) whole weight to those values provided in the table below, including the quotas, acceptable biological catches, and annual catch targets in mp whole weight.

Year	Acceptable Biological Catch	Total Quota	Commercial Quota	Recreational Quota	Recreational Annual Catch Target
2015	14.30	14.30	7.293	7.007	5.606
2016	13.96	13.96	7.120	6.840	5.473
2017+	13.74	13.74	7.007	6.733	5.386

The red snapper commercial sector is managed under an individual fishing quota program. The increase to the commercial quota would be distributed to quota shareholders on, or shortly after, the effective date of the final rule. The increase to the recreational quota would allow additional days to be added to the red snapper recreational fishing season which will open on June 1, 2015, and close when the catch target is met or projected to be met. The season length will be announced in May 2015.

How to Submit Comments:

NOAA Fisheries must receive comments on this proposed rulemaking no later than April 16, 2015. You may submit comments on the amendment or the proposed rule, identified by "NOAA-NMFS-2015-0036", by one of the following methods:

Electronic Submission:

Go to the federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail%3BD%3DNOAA-NMFS-2015-0036> click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. NOAA Fisheries will accept anonymous comments. Comments received through means not specified in this bulletin may not be considered.

Mail: NOAA Fisheries
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All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on the regulations.gov website without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible.

Electronic copies of the framework action, which includes an environmental assessment, Regulatory Flexibility Act analysis and a regulatory impact review, may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office Web Site at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/gulf_fisheries/reef_fish/2015/rs_framework_quota